does not wish to be disturbed. It is in darkness, because it prefers the darkness to the light. The conscience, in such persons, loses all delicacy of perception and touch; and the possessor does good without doing it as good, and evil without knowing that it is evil.

SECONDLY, THERE IS A PERVERTED CONSCIENCE. This form differs from the other only in degree. It is a farther stage of the same malady. There is now not only ignorance, there is positive mistake. Nor is it difficult, proceeding on the principles above developed, to discover how the conscience should come to pronounce judgments which are positively erroneous. Under the influence of prejudice and passion, the mind views every object only under some one, and that a very partial, aspect. Objects really loved on other grounds come in imagination to be invested with qualities which do not belong to them ; and we are led, not only to desire, but to justify ourselves in desiring them. Men will fight for persons and causes altogether unworthy of esteem, because they identify them with something that is good, and they will do so with unflinching fidelity and the deepest devotedness, thinking that they do God service. On the other hand, when they are under the feeling of malice or revenge, all the actions of the obnoxious party will be seen as through broken and coloured crystal. " It would be curious to see how a respectful estimate of a man's character and talents might be changed, in consequence of some personal inattention experienced from him, into deprecating invectives against him or his intellectual performances; and the railer, though actuated solely by petty revenge, account himself all the while the model of equity and sound judgment."*- Having succeeded in representing those whom we dislike in jaundiced colours and distorted forms, we feel as if we were not only allowed, but justified, in the opposition offered them. Malignity never

becomes deep or bitter, till it has succeeded in calling in the conscience; and men feel as if they did right to be angry. Mankind always misrepresent those whom they hate, as Nero clothed with the skins of wild beasts those on whom he let loose the dogs that tore them to pieces, and covered with pitch those that were consumed by the flames.

In consequence of these aberrations, willing in the first in-

* Foster on a Man's Writing Memoirs of Himself.